

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 through 5 (canceled)

1 6. (original) A plant for desalinating salt-containing
2 water, comprising a basin that contains brine formed by several
3 layers of water lying one above another in the basin each layer of
4 water having a higher salt content than a layer present there above
5 and to be heated by solar energy, in which a heat exchanger is
6 disposed in the lowermost layer of water, wherein means for
7 supplying the water to be desalinated are connected to an inlet of
8 the heat exchanger and an inlet of an evaporator is connected to an
9 outlet of the heat exchanger, whilst an outlet of the evaporator is
10 connected to means for condensing the water vapor that has been
11 formed in the evaporator.

1 7. (original) A plant according to claim 6,
2 characterized in that said plant comprises a pit, to which seawater
3 to be desalinated is supplied, and from which the water is carried
4 to the heat exchanger that is disposed in the basin.

1 8. (Previously presented) A plant according to claim 6,
2 characterized in that the evaporator is connected to a condenser,
3 and in that the plant comprises a pump by means of which water that
4 has condensed in the condenser can be transported to a receiving
5 basin for the water.

1 9. (New) A method for desalinating salt-containing
2 water, which comprises the steps of:

3 (a) passing salt-containing water through a heat
4 exchanger disposed in a basin containing brine formed by several
5 layers of water lying one above the other in the basin, each of
6 said layers of water having a higher salt content than the layer
7 present there above, wherein the heat exchanger is disposed in the
8 lowermost layer of water having a high temperature;

9 (b) heating the salt-containing water in the basin using
10 solar energy to obtain heated salt-containing water;

11 (c) evaporating at least part of the heated salt-
12 containing water to obtain water vapor; and

13 (d) condensing the water vapor to obtain desalinated
14 water.

1 10. (New) The method for desalinating salt-containing
2 water defined in claim 9 wherein according to step (a) the basin
3 contains a lower level of water having a salt content of $\pm 24\%$, a
4 middle layer of water having a salt content of $\pm 15\%$ and an upper
5 layer of water having a salt content of $\pm 0-4\%$.

1 11. (New) The method for desalinating salt-containing
2 water defined in claim 10 wherein each of the layers of water is
3 formed to a height of ± 1 m.

1 12. (New) The method for desalinating salt-containing
2 water defined in claim 9 wherein according to step (a) the water to
3 be desalinated is supplied to the heat exchanger disposed in the
4 basin from a pit holding the salt-containing water, in which pit a
5 second heat exchanger is disposed, through which the condensed
6 desalinated water obtained according to step (d) is passed to
7 preheat the salt- containing water by indirect heat exchange.

1 13. (New) The method for desalinating salt-containing
2 water defined in claim 9 wherein according to step (d) the water
3 vapor is condensed in a condenser, in which a cooler for supplying
4 cool air is connected to the condenser.